

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

January 14, 2010

Mr. Timothy W. Manning
Deputy Administrator
FEMA, National Preparedness Directorate
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

RE: 2010 SAFER Program

Dear Mr. Manning,

I am writing to support the Sacramento Fire Department as it applies for funding through the 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program to hire 27 firefighter positions that were lost to attrition.

Positioned in the capitol of California, the Sacramento Fire Department is the primary fire and emergency response unit to both the residents and the state's administrative system. This position puts them in a critical situation with tremendous responsibility. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts by the City of Sacramento, the Sacramento Fire Department is seriously understaffed and the city's first responders are severely overworked. In spite of this, the men and women of the Sacramento Fire Department continue to serve with commitment and bravery, both on and off duty. The department's request for funding to hire 27 firefighters is critically necessary to keeping our firefighters safe, their morale high, and to protect the city and state during times of disaster and distress. In addition, this funding would allow the department restore two fire companies and bring itself closer to NFPA Initial Full Alarm Assignment Capability compliance.

I am pleased with the outstanding work of the Sacramento Fire Department and support them as they apply for funding through the 2010 SAFER Program. This funding is both mission and unit critical. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress